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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS BIOLOGIST ABOARD JAPANESE FISHERY RESEARCH VESSEL

At the invitation of the Japanese Government, the Fish and Wildlife Service has despatched Francis M. Fukuohara, a Service biologist, to accompany a Japanese salmon fishing expedition operating in the Bering Sea, according to an announcement made today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Fukuohara, a native of Seattle, Washington, and a student at the Fisheries School of the University of Washington, joined the 3,700 ton mothership Tenyo Maru No. 3, via United States Coast Guard vessel on May 30.

In issuing the invitation, the Japanese Government acted in the spirit of the recently negotiated North Pacific Fisheries Convention to which the United States, Canada and Japan are signatories.

Fukuohara will remain with the Japanese fleet until about July 20, working with the Japanese in the collection of scientific data on the composition and distribution of the salmon populations of the North Pacific Ocean. This study will be of great importance in the conservation of American salmon resources, and is a first step toward investigations contemplated by the Fisheries Convention.

In addition to the Tenyo Maru No. 3, the Japanese fishing fleet consists of the motherships Tenryu Maru of 557 tons and Shinko Maru No. 1 of 521 tons, some 50 catcher boats, and two research vessels. The fleet has been fishing since about May 10 and, it is reported, is confining its operations to the area between latitudes 50° N. and 55° N. and longitudes 170° E. and 177° W.

Fukuohara attended elementary and high schools in Seattle and Lords College in Dubuque, Iowa. He is a veteran and served with the occupation forces in Japan. Upon completion of military service, he enrolled in the University of Washington School of Fisheries where he is in his final year.

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